

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues realize this is an important week for Federal education policy.

Today we on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce will be holding our first hearing on Title I, the section of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that is designed to get Federal resources to the poorest of our Nation's children.

I will also be meeting with our Superintendent of Public Instruction of California, Delaine Eastin, today. She and I have worked together on several education issues, including the concern for Title I and other programs.

Title I is a very important program. In particular, it affects my district, and I would like to tell my colleagues how. First of all, Title I is for the poorest children in the Nation. Fifty percent of the students in the school must qualify for the free and reduced lunch in order to be a Title I school.

In our school district, in Garden Grove Unified, for example, 57 of the 64 schools qualify for Title I funds. In Anaheim City School District, over 50 percent of the schools qualify.

This is an issue that is of great concern, and I hope that my colleagues will work to ensure that Title I is there.

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THE BUDGET

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have proposed to do something that should have been done a long time ago. The Republican budget plan puts 100 percent of the retirement surplus into a safe deposit box to be used exclusively for Social Security and Medicare.

The retirement surplus, that is, the surplus from FICA taxes taken out of our paychecks, is the only reason that the budget is not in surplus. If we did not count the money in the Social Security Trust Fund, the Federal budget would still be in deficit to the tune of about \$20 billion.

Social Security and Medicare have really divided the parties this year. Talk about Medicare. Republicans propose a lockbox and a willingness to debate the Breaux Commission's finding on Medicare reform.

Democrats ask for continued raids on the Social Security Trust Fund, more IOUs, and a veto of the Breaux Commission out of hand, no system reforms of Medicare.

They would rather scare seniors once again instead of trying to solve the problems. Our seniors, Mr. Speaker, deserve better.

GENOCIDE AND ETHNIC CLEANSING WILL NOT PREVAIL IN KOSOVO

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, along with the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), I am introducing a bill which will provide \$25 million to arm and train the KLA, the Kosovo Liberation Army. It is similar to a bill put forward by Senators MCCONNELL and LIEBERMAN in the Senate.

If we do not want to have the NATO troops on the ground, and let me say I think troops should be an option here, because we must win the war and show Milosevic that genocide and ethnic cleansing will not prevail.

But the only alternative to NATO troops or perhaps to supplement NATO troops on the ground right now is the KLA. In my opinion, we ought to be air dropping anti-tank weaponry to them. In the long run, we need to build them up as a viable force to fight the Serbs and to drive the Serbs out of Kosovo. Ethnic cleansing cannot prevail.

Milosevic is the problem. He is not the solution. We should not be negotiating with him. He is going to try to widen this war. We have to win this war. We must do it now.

In the long range, independence for Kosovo is the only solution. No partition of Kosovo. I was one of the Democrats that supported President Bush in the Persian Gulf War. We need to have great support right now for the President. I regret the remarks of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS). We need to rally around the President, not divide ourselves.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, there is a big difference between the President's proposal to reform Social Security and the Congressional Republicans' proposal to reform Social Security.

Under our proposal, 100 percent of the retirement surplus will be put away to strengthen Social Security and Medicare and pay down the debt. The President uses part of this surplus for Social Security, part for Medicare, and part to pay for new Washington spending. But do not take my word for it. I urge Americans to verify for themselves the facts at issue and compare the two proposals.

The President's plan includes so many Washington accounting tricks that even Houdini would have been impressed. But accounting tricks do not make an insolvent program solvent.

The President's proposal double counts Social Security to the tune of \$2.4 trillion, hardly a recipe for saving Social Security from bankruptcy. I urge my colleagues to join us on a bipartisan basis, to protect Social Security and Medicare.

PRAISE FOR LOCAL HEROES IN ATLANTA

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise courageous fire fighters in the City of Atlanta.

On Monday afternoon, members of the Atlanta City Fire Department fought a raging fire through the historic Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill in southeast Atlanta. Mr. Ivers Sims was trapped on a crane 220 feet in the air. As I watched this human drama unfold from my office, my heart stopped.

Demonstrating extraordinary courage and skill, fire fighter Matt Moseley lifted Mr. Sims from his dangerous perch like angels from the heavens. They saved his life. This brilliant rescue has made the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and our Nation proud.

The fire fighters and Mr. Sims have my profound respect for their raw courage and extraordinary calm and determination under the most dangerous of circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to praise fire fighters throughout the Nation who put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our communities.

HONORING CAPTAIN ROBBIE BISHOP

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero. As mind-altering drugs rip through America's homes and neighborhoods, leaving ruined lives in their wake, a group of brave men and women have stepped forward to fight this scourge. These men and women are our law enforcement professionals.

Captain Robbie Bishop of the Villa Rica Police Department was one such man. Every day he risked his life to keep drugs out of our schools and neighborhoods. He was willing to pay the ultimate price for his battle, as he did so on January 20 of this year when he was shot to death in his patrol car by a suspected drug trafficker who fled

to Canada and has just been returned to America.

While nothing can ease the pain Captain Bishop's family, his department, and community feel at losing him, we can take some comfort in the knowledge that his sacrifice saved the lives of so many others.

During the past 7 years alone, Robbie Bishop directly assisted in the seizure of over 10,000 pounds of narcotics and more than \$8 million from drug traffickers. These are drugs and resources that would have threatened and taken other lives if brave men and women like Captain Bishop had not stood in the way.

I commend the dedication and sacrifice of Captain Robbie Bishop of the Villa Rica Police Department, and I hope that his life and legacy will serve as an incentive for all of us to continue the war against mind-altering drugs.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get serious about reforming our broken campaign finance system, and it truly is broken.

Soft money from the wealthiest corporations and from the wealthiest individuals is flooding into Federal elections at an alarming rate. Last year's special election in my district saw an explosion of sham issue ads which are clearly designed to sway voters with no regard for our election laws.

Our democratic system is being undermined by these abuses. We need to act now before the American people lose all faith in the political process.

Today I joined my colleagues in signing the discharge petition to bring the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill to the floor for a fair and open debate. The American people have spoken. The time for reform is now.

SUPPORT THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, Republicans who honored their campaign promise by trying to lower taxes have been subject to constant attacks that any tax cuts would be a raid on Social Security. How is it that tax cuts can be a raid on Social Security, but billions of dollars of new spending are not?

The truth is that Democrats had 40 years to do something about Social Security, and they did not put one dime aside to save it from Social Security, not one dime, Mr. Speaker.

Republicans on the other hand have proposed to put aside \$1.4 trillion of the

budget surplus to save Social Security. The choice is \$1.4 trillion or zero. Which side, America, do you trust on this issue?

Those who were in power for 40 years did nothing, who put aside nothing, are attacking the Republicans. We have to admire their audacity, Mr. Speaker, but you have to be ashamed of their demagoguery.

The same party that raided Social Security for 40 years is now attacking Republicans for stepping up to the plate and putting aside over a trillion dollars to shore up a system that is so important and will soon be bankrupt.

I ask my colleagues to reject the demagoguery. Be responsible and support this budget.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM DISCHARGE PETITION

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of substantive campaign finance reform. This Congress has talked a lot about it, but we have not done anything about it. It is a shame that it is going to take a discharge petition to even bring it before the floor. I encourage everyone to sign this discharge petition.

If we are serious about passing real campaign finance reform legislation this year, not later, everyone knows what we need to do. We need to ban soft money. We need to limit the wealthy from being able to buy elections rather than earning elections. We need to crack down on the issue of issue ads as campaign ads, and we need to improve disclosure and enforcement of the Federal Election Commission.

We just need to have the courage to do what must be done. Sign the discharge petition. Let us pass real campaign finance reform legislation this year. Let us base it in the future on the richness of message, not the richness of pocketbook. We have got to do this for the sake of the people and for the American people moving into the 21st century.

WHAT SURPLUS?

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, when I got back to my district, I asked people about what they think should be done with the budget surplus. On more than one occasion, I am asked in return, "what surplus?"

There are a lot of people out there who are on to the games we play in this town. They ask, how could there be a budget surplus if the national debt went up last year and will go up again this year? What kind of surplus is that?

In fact, they are right. The Federal budget is only in surplus if we count the temporary surplus in the Social Security Trust Fund. The ironic thing is that the government would never let a business keep its books that way. But that is the way it does with our seniors' retirement money. It uses it to mask the true size of the deficit.

Republicans want to put an end to that. Many Democrats are not very happy about that prospect. Ending this practice would make it a lot harder to create new spending programs and expand the size of government. It sounds like another good reason why we should do it, does it not?

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last year, the Republican leadership tried to thwart action on campaign finance reform. This year they are trying it once again. Why? Because they know it will pass the House on a bipartisan vote, because they fear public pressure will grow in the Senate.

The Republican leadership is saying again our private campaign money is our primary concern; the public interest be damned. Soft money is hardening the arteries of our democracy. So-called issue ads are snuffing out discourse on public issues.

Truly, it is time to act. That is why I am now going over to sign the discharge petition, and so many of my colleagues have already done so.

EXCITEMENT FOR THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, very quickly, it is exciting, the budget resolution. It came back from the Senate with a couple changes: some increased money for child care, some lockbox language that helps assure that we do what we say we are going to do, a reserve fund that could be used for prescription drugs, a new criteria for emergency spending.

This is a historic budget. For the first time in 40 years, we are not going to spend the Social Security surplus money, not going to even spend any of it for tax cuts in the next year.

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The challenge is what do we do with the war in Serbia? Is that going to come out of the Social Security Trust Fund?

Mr. Speaker, a historic budget. It should be supported from both sides.